

LESSONS FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

Proverbs 30:24-28

Learning From Nature

- God gives us lessons in life that we can learn by looking at His creations all around us
- Often when Jesus taught in parables He used objects around Him to teach lessons about God and life
- Matt. 5:13-16 – He uses salt & light

Learning From Nature

- Matt. 6:26-28 – Birds & Lilies
- Matt. 13:24-30 – Wheat & Tares
- Matt. 13:31-32 – Mustard Seed
- Matt. 13:45-46 – Pearl
- Luke 15:4-7 – Sheep
- Luke 15:8-10 – Coin

Learning From Nature

- In the book of Proverbs, we are taught some lessons from the animal kingdom
- To be specific, these lessons come from insects
- What are such small and seemingly insignificant insects, they can teach us great lessons about life if we are willing to learn

Ants



Ants

- The Bible says the ants are a people not strong
- Compared to man and even other animals or insects, the ants are very weak
- However, there is something that they do that is very wise
- They prepare their food in the summer

Ants

- So what's the application?
- They have foresight to look ahead and see what is important and to plan for it
- For the ant, what is more important than food?
- Food is what will sustain it in it's only life

Ants

- It behooves us to have foresight as well
- Matt. 6:19-21 – We need to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven
- We ought to have the foresight to look at what lies ahead for us spiritually
- Phil. 3:12-14

Rock Badger



Rock Badger

- The rock badger makes his home in crags and crevices of rocky outcrops and cliffs. Such a home is ideal for him. As he is slow moving he is a natural target for predators. His inhospitable environment, however, ensures that enemies keep their distance. The home of the rock badger also provides ideal protection from wind and rain. For these reasons the badger spends most of his time in his rocky home.

Rock Badger

- What is it that we should learn from the home of the Rock Badger?
- The Rock Badger knows where it's protection comes from
- The rocks shelter and guard them and give them fortification
- The Lord should be our rock

Rock Badger

- Deut. 32:4,15,18,31
- II Sam. 22:2,3,32,33,47
- Think of the songs we sing that praise God as our rock
- Do you look to God as your shelter and protection in this life, or do you seek that somewhere else?

Locusts



Locusts

- We are most familiar with locusts from the 10 plagues (Ex. 10)
- The point that is made of locusts here is that they have no leader, yet they are so well unified and act together
- Does Christ wish for us to be unified in what we do in this life?

Locusts

- The Bible teaches us the power of unity
- Gen. 11 – Tower of Babel
- I Cor. 1:10
- Phil. 1:27, 2:2
- Christ prayed for unity in John 17
- The early church had unity – Acts 2:46

Lizards (Spider)



Lizards (Spider)

- Whether you go with the translation of lizard or spider here doesn't really matter
- We can pick up either a lizard or spider and do what we wish with it
- However, it shows great persistence and patience in this life to get to where it wants to go

Lizards (Spider)

- There are many obstacles it must face and overcome to get to where it wants to be
- Those things do not stop it
- Patience and persistence pay off for the Christian as well
- No one will get to heaven without them

Lizards (Spider)

- James 1:12 – We must endure
- Endurance takes patience (II Pet. 1:6)
- Rev. 2:11 – We must overcome
- Again, to overcome we must have patience and be persistent in what we want

Lessons

- The overall lessons we learn:
 - ▣ Although these creatures are small and weak, they use what God has given them and do not try and go beyond that
 - ▣ We too are small and weak, but sometimes try to think outside of His wisdom and use our own
 - ▣ We need to follow Prov. 3:5-7 if we wish to have long & happy lives on earth